Deaths caused by Sura

1448. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of persons have died by consuming Mrit Sanjivini Sura in the Capital during the last three months;

(b) if so, what is the number of persons so dead;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Mrit Sanjivini Sura manufacturers (Ayurvedic Pharmacies) have been manufacturing only Sura by using spirits and Gur;

(d) whether Government propose to ban the manufacture of Mrit Sanjivini Sura; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha in due course.

Manufacture of Sura

1449. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Mrit Sanjivini Sura manufactured by local pharmacists contains more powerful intoxication than wine, as Sura is manufactured from spirit and Gur;

(b) whether Government propose to conduct a C.B.I. inquiry into the working of all the pharmacies manufacturing Sura so as to know the facts about Sura and other medicines manufactured by them; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) The Government are aware about the misuse of Mrit Sanjivini Sura as an an alcoholic drink. According to the classics/texts on Ayurveda, Mrit Sanjivini Sura is an Ayurvedic drug prepared by formenting jaggery in a decoction of Babul (Acacia Arabica) and 43 other herbs. Spirit is not one of the ingredients. The recommended dosage for treatment of illnesses is 20 to 60 drops. Both the Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani Drugs Technical Advisory Board as well as Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani Drugs Consultative Committee have considered measures to prevent the misuse of this drug. On the basis of their recommendations, State Governments have been requested to take necessary action under the existing Excise Acts. It has also been recommended that the drug should have only its natural colour. No pharmacopial standards have, as yet, been evolved for this drug.

There is no proposal in the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to conduct any C.B.I. inquiry into the working of all the Pharmacies manufacturing Sura.

Excessive presence of pesticides in fruits and vegetables

1450. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleastd to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item that appeared in Hindustan Times of 12th October, 1986 wherein it has been stated that despite 12 legislations in force not a single challan has been filed so far for excessive use of pesticides in fruits and vegetables; and if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government have any information that in USA and Australia about 30,000 diet analyses are conducted